

**FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE MAY 19, 2011 MEETING OF THE  
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL  
Petition for Plan Conformance - Final Consistency Review and Recommendations Report**

**APPENDIX B**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS/HIGHLANDS COUNCIL RESPONSES**

**Petition for Plan Conformance**

**Township of Franklin, Warren County**

**Public Comment Period: April 4, 2011 – April 18, 2011**

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**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED**

Written comments regarding the Township of Franklin's Petition for Plan Conformance were accepted by the Highlands Council through the close of the Public Comment period on April 18, 2011. Comments were provided by the following individual:

Helen Heinrich, New Jersey Farm Bureau

**Comment /Response Summary:**

**Comment:** The New Jersey Farm Bureau strongly supports the grant opportunity for Franklin Township to develop an Agricultural Retention and Farmland Preservation Plan. The Bureau supports the development of such a plan to apply to the entirety of the Township, all of the Highland Preservation Area and Planning Area lands, although the Township is only conforming for the Preservation Area. Additionally, the Bureau supports a coordinated regional strategy for enhancing the viability of local farming operations with surrounding communities such as Lopatcong and Bethlehem.

**Response:** The Highlands Council acknowledges the New Jersey Farm Bureau's support of grant funding opportunities for the Township of Franklin's Agricultural Retention and Farmland Preservation Plan. This Plan will apply to all Agricultural Resource Area (ARA) Township lands; both Preservation and Planning Area. The Highlands Council notes that municipalities adjacent to Franklin Township will also be pursuing development of Agricultural Retention and Farmland Preservation planning through amended grant agreements with the Highlands Council and the Plan Conformance process. The Highlands Council supports coordinated planning of shared or similar resources as an effective and efficient way to enhance results of the planning process, including any potential effort of multiple municipalities to work cooperatively with the Warren County Agriculture Development Board and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture on a regional plan.